

Serial No. 10/714,602

P-0568

Amendment dated February 23, 2006

Response to Office Action dated November 23, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings

A Replacement Sheet for Figure 6B is submitted with this paper to conform the drawings to subject matter originally disclosed in the specification

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending. New claims 21-36 have been added to recite additional features of Applicant's invention, and a Replacement Sheet has been added for Fig. 6B to conform the drawings to the specification. The specification has also been amended to reference Figure 6B in paragraph [28].

Reconsideration of the application is requested for the following reasons.

In the Office Action, claims 1-7, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 18 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) for being anticipated by JP 2001345027, hereafter referred to as the Japanese reference. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites broadly embodiments of the invention disclosed in the specification. In particular, claim 1 recites "a sheet having a plurality of holes" and that "a plurality of keys [are] fastened within respective ones of the holes." The Japanese reference does not disclose these features. As shown in Fig. 1, the Japanese key switch device includes a flexible sheet 5 having a hole 8 for holding a key 6. Unlike the claimed invention, however, a separate sheet 5 is provided for each key; that is, sheet 5 has only one hole fastened to only one key. Sheet 5 does not include a plurality of holes into which are fastened a plurality of keys as recited in claim 1.

Because the Japanese reference does not disclose all the features in claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the Japanese patent cannot anticipate this claim or any of its dependent claims.

Claim 12 recites “forming a plurality of holes in a sheet” and “fastening the keys within respective ones of the holes, said sheet supporting the keys within a housing of the portable wireless terminal.” As discussed above, the Japanese reference does not disclose these features. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the Japanese reference cannot anticipate claim 12 or any of its dependent claims.

Claims 8 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious in view of a combination formed between the Japanese reference and CN2400887, claim 9 was rejected for being obvious in view of a combination formed among the Japanese reference, CN 2400887, and CN 1138170, claim 10 was rejected for being obvious in view of a combination formed among the Japanese reference, CN 2400887, and the Soloway patent, and claims 13, 19, and 20 were rejected for being obvious in view of a combination formed between the Japanese reference and Soloway.

All of these rejected claims depend either directly or indirectly from base claims 1 and 12. In order to render these dependent claims obvious, the secondary references must therefore teach or suggest the features of claims 1 and 12 missing from the Japanese reference.

CN 2400887 was cited for its disclosure of elastic button rings formed between two films of a push-button. CN 1138170 was cited for its disclosure of a key having a protrusion in the form of a telescopic segment. And the Soloway patent was cited for its disclosure of adhesive layer made from a silicon material. None of these references, however, teach or suggest the

features of claims 1 and 12 missing from the Japanese reference. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 2-11 and claims 13-20 are non-obvious and thus patentable over the cited combinations.

Moreover, claim 8 separately recites an “adhesive layer . . . providing additional force for holding the keys within the holes of the sheet.” The CN 2400887 reference does not teach or suggest these features. The ‘887 reference discloses elastic button rings formed between two rubber sheets. As best as Applicant can determine from the English abstract of the ‘887 reference, neither the rubber sheets nor the button rings are not disclosed to be “adhesive” as recited in claim 8.

In addition, the rubber sheets and button rings do not provide an “additional force for holding the keys within the holes of the sheet” as is further recited in claim 8. In fact, the ‘887 reference teaches away from these features when it discloses that the holes in the upper and lower rubber sheets do not correspond to one another and that the button rings do not exist in the holes of the lower film, i.e., if the button rings are not located in the holes then neither rubber sheet can act as an adhesive layer to hold the button rings in the holes as in claim 8.

Applicant respectfully submits that these differences further patentably distinguish claim 8 from the cited references. Claim 16 is separately patentable for similar reasons.

Claim 9 separately recites that the adhesive layer “includes a plurality of protrusions aligned with respective ones of the keys.” CN 1138170 does not teach or suggest these features. The ‘170 reference discloses that the key includes protrusions in the form of telescopic segments. (See the abstract figure). The ‘170 reference does not teach or suggest that its

telescopic segments protrude from an adhesive layer “adjacent a lower surface of the sheet and contacting lower surfaces of the keys” for “providing an additional force for holding the keys within the holes of the sheet.” Applicant respectfully submits that these differences further patentably distinguish claim 9 from the cited references.

New claims 21-36 have been added to the application.

Claim 21 recites that the sheet is substantially parallel to a front case of the portable wireless device. These features are not taught or suggested in the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 22 recites that the keys protrude above a front case of the portable wireless device. These features are not taught or suggested in the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination, e.g., the Japanese reference discloses keys disposed within recesses below a front surface of its device.

Claim 23 recites another sheet including a plurality of dome switches aligned with respective ones of the keys. These features are not taught or suggested in the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination, e.g., the Japanese reference discloses a key fastened within a hole of flexible sheet 5. However, this reference does not teach or suggest another sheet having dome switches aligned with the keys in sheet 5.

Claim 24 recites that each dome switch includes a curved metal surface which deflects to touch an electrical contact point coupled to a circuit board when pressure is applied to a respective one of the keys. These features are not taught or suggested in the cited references,

whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 25 recites an adhesive layer coupled between the keys and dome switches, wherein the adhesive layer includes a plurality of protrusions aligned with respective ones of the dome switches, each of the protrusions applying a force to close a respective one of the dome switches when one of the keys is pressed. These features are not taught or suggested in the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 26 recites that the adhesive layer applies a force to hold the keys in the holes. These features are not taught or suggested in the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 27 recites that the adhesive layer is substantially parallel to the sheet having the holes. These features are not taught or suggested in the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 28 recites that the adhesive layer is also substantially parallel to a front case of the portable wireless terminal. These features are not taught or suggested in the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claims 29-36 recite features similar to those above but depending from claim 12. Applicant submits that these claims are allowable based on these features.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all the rejections and objections made by the Examiner is hereby respectfully requested.

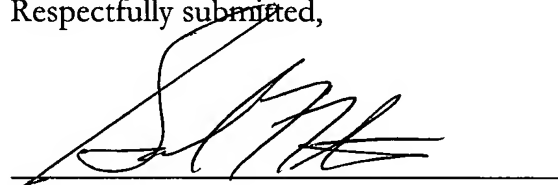
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with this application, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No.16-0607 and credit any excess fees to the same Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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